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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Sirs:

The proposed settlement for the private law suits against Microsoft has an interesting angle to it. Microsoft cheats consumers of millions of dollars and the remedy is to give the money to an undefined group of schools instead of the people who were initially wronged.

The "it's for the children" routine is getting a little bit old. If Microsoft is so worried about the "children" then let them be magnanimous with their own money. The money that should go to the consumers should go to the consumers.

This is like a car accident where the guilty party offers to buy every kid on the block an ice cream cone instead of paying for the damage that was done to the other car. If I were the guilty party, I'd think it a "sweet deal". If I were the offended party, I'd be outraged.

Speaking of "sweet deals"... ... if I decided to cheat on my income taxes and got caught (mind you - I'd only do this if I were actually caught cheating - just like Microsoft) could I buy my way out of the trouble by donating a bunch of my old worthless (I mean re-furbished) computer equipment to poor kids, too? Maybe even give them a few programs I've written but charge them full retail while I'm at it?????? After all, Microsoft may get to set just such a precedence.

Aren't you guys getting tired of having Microsoft tell YOU what they will or will not do and continue to play your department for a bunch of fools???? By the way.... have ANY of you actually taken a computer course or understand the industry at all???? It certainly doesn't look like it from here, outside the beltway, in heartland America.

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P.S. For some actual insight into the larger case against Microsoft, maybe you boys should read the article at:

<http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html>

It explains why you look like such fools when dealing with Bill Gates. Come to think of it, the "geek boy" certainly has made the entire Justice Department look like hacks and dullards. Anyone connected with the case should seriously reconsider adding their participation to any resume. It wouldn't be a plus unless you were applying for a job at

Microsoft.